

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA SPECULATION ON US-GREEK RELATIONS, THE NATO
"SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP", AND THE AEGEAN

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: COMMENTS BY SECRETARY VANCE AND
SECRETARY BROWN BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
AND AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS
WERE PRIMARY STORIES IN THE JUNE 29 GREEK MEDIA. FREQUENTLY
WOVEN INTO THE ACCOUNTS WAS THE THOUGHT THAT GENERAL HAIG'S
REPORT ON GREECE'S "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"
WITH NATO WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO GREECE. MANY STORIES

ALSO REPORTED THAT GREECE WOULD PROTECT HER INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN REGARDLESS OF THE IMPENDING SHIFT TO TURKISH COMMAND OF THE NATO HEADQUARTERS AT IZMIR. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT OPPOSITION PRESS FOCUSED ON SEPARATE REMARKS BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE MADE BY SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN. THE AFTERNOON PRESS ESPECIALLY SOUGHT TO DISTORT SECRETARY BROWN'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR HART, IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. WAS READY FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN GREECE. THIS THEME WAS THE BASIS FOR SENSATIONALIST HEADLINES AS WELL AS A FEW REPORTS INSINUATING THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO ACT AGAINST KARAMANLIS BECAUSE OF HIS RESISTANCE TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. LEFTIST ELEFTHERTOTYPIA SCREAMED "CYNICAL STATEMENT BY PENTAGON CHIEF - US: READY PLANS FOR EVERY DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE (SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT FALL BECAUSE OF THE EMBARGO)." LIBERAL MORNING TO VIMA WROTE, "U.S. DEFENSE MINISTER BROWN ADMITS TO THE SENATE: THE U.S. PENTAGON HAS PLANS FOR EVERY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE," WHILE SISTER, AFTERNOON TA NEA, HEADLINED "FOR EVERY EVENTUAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT - A PENTAGON PLAN FOR GREECE - REVELATIONS BY THE AMERICAN DEFENSE MINISTER." ULTRA RIGHT ESTIA CALLED SECRETARY BROWN'S REPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"HIGHLY IMPERTINENT*" AN ARTICLE IN THE NEWS MAGAZINE TAXYDROMOS BY STAVROS PSYXARIS, WHO RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED KARAMANLIS TO THE U.S., SUGGESTED THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO DO THE NECESSARY TO UNDERMINE THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANGER AT HIS RESISTANCE TO THE REMOVAL OF THE EMBARGO. SECRETARY VANCE'S PURPORTED REMARKS THAT THE END OF THE EMBARGO WOULD PROBABLY NOT BRING THE FALL OF THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT CREATE SHORT-TERM DIFFICULTIES IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS WERE LIKEWISE GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY.

3. AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S MEETING YESTERDAY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE. MOST REPORTS -- QUOTING RELIABLE SOURCES -- INDICATED THAT KARAMANLIS HAD SPOKEN STRONGLY TO THE AMBASSADOR IN STAUNCHLY DEFENDING GREEK POSITIONS ON THE EMBARGO, ON NATO, AND ON THE AEGEAN. THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD ALSO SEEN PAPANDREOU THE DAY BEFORE, WAS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON SO SOON AFTER ASSUMING HIS DUTIES NOT FOR LEAVE PURPOSES, BUT RATHER TO CONSULT ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE. MANY NEWSPAPERS

INDICATED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT RETURN
TO GREECE UNTIL AFTER THE EMBARGO WAS VOTED, PROBABLY
IN LATE JULY.

4. MINGLED IN THE ACCOUNTS WAS THAT GENERAL HAIG'S
REPORT ON GREECE'S "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH NATO
WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO GREECE'S POSITION. THE PRO-
GOVERNMENT MEDIA IN PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHTED THIS ASPECT
AS WELL AS THAT GREECE WOULD STAND FIRM IN PROTECTING
HER INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN IN SPITE OF THE IMMINENT
CHANGE TO TURKISH COMMAND OF THE NATO HEADQUARTERS
IN IZMIR.
MCCLOSKEY

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